



# POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at Police Headquarters on November 5, 2014 at 09:00 hours. **Present** were Comm. Mark Roy (Chairman), Comm. William Clifford, Comm. Eva Castillo-Turgeon, Chief David Mara, Assistant Chief Nick Willard, Capt. Jonathan Hopkins, Capt. James Flanagan, Lt. Maureen Tessier, Lt. Mark Sanclemente, Sgt. Brian O'Keefe, and Kim Demers (Secretary). **Absent** were Comm. Woullard Lett, Capt. Carlo Capano.

Prior to the official start of the meeting, there was a moment of silence in honor of Commissioner David Nixon who passed away on November 1, 2014.

Chief Mara advised that there would not be a report from the Patrol and Administrative Divisions as Patrol Captain Jon Hopkins was representing the PD at an Emergency Operations Center exercise and Administrative Captain Carlo Capano was overseeing the administration of a sergeant promotional examination.

### 1. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission was advised that the notices had been posted at City Hall, the City Library, as well as on the MPD's website homepage, event calendar, and blog.
- Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of the October 1, 2014, meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There was no one present from the Public to offer comments.

### 3. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

#### Special Enforcement Division – Lt. Sanclemente:

- Oct. 3: SWAT assisted Auburn PD with a domestic issue involving a suspect potentially armed with a rifle. With the use of a robot, the team located the suspect in the basement of the building.
- Oct. 15: SWAT was activated for a suicidal subject at 119 Barrett Street. The subject communicated two hours with negotiators and finally surrendered without incident.
- Oct. 16: SWAT assisted with security at the Radisson during the visit of former president Bill Clinton.
- Oct. 17: SWAT responded to 279 Concord Street ref a call reporting a hostage situation. Though the situation was eventually determined to be unfounded, it triggered a lockdown at Central High School.
- Oct. 18: SWAT team members assisted Keene PD with the riot situation. MPD SWAT provided support during the night hours. Still awaiting a debriefing of the riot situation from Keene PD.
- Oct. 27-29: 3 SWAT snipers attended an advanced sniper course at the Sig Academy.
- Oct. 30: SWAT leaders met with representatives from SNHU to discuss the riot situation that occurred in Keene.
- Street Crime Unit made 17 arrests throughout the month. They continue to monitor prostitution activity and nuisance addresses.
- SIU is busy with ongoing drug investigations.
- A methadone clinic has opened next door to MPD on Valley Street. Lt. Sanclemente had the opportunity to tour the facility and was very impressed with the security measures in place at the facility.

#### Questions, Comments, Discussion:

- In response to Comm. Clifford's inquiry, Lt. Sanclemente advised that the methadone clinic was privately run.
- In response to Comm. Roy's inquiry, Lt. Sanclemente stated that MPD relies on the NH State Police bomb squad services when needed. There are a couple of NH cities/towns, Nashua being one, that do have their own bomb squad.

#### Legal Division – Lt. Tessier:

- The transition to video arraignments on October 7 went smoother than anticipated. The court officers arrive at court at 8:00 a.m. and the video arraignments start at 10:00 a.m. The court has been very accommodating with regard to special circumstances that may arise.
- The next transition to make will be when the juvenile age goes from 18 to 17 in July 1, 2015. A greater number of juvenile court cases are anticipated which will put a greater burden on the one PD juvenile prosecutor.

- One patrol officer has expressed an interest in attending prosecution training. Having an extra person familiar with training will be very beneficial to the MPD legal staff.
- A supervisor within the Records Unit will be retiring in 2015, which will necessitate identifying a replacement to fill the position.
- A Records Specialist will be attending SPOTS training so that she will be able to run criminal records for inclusion in court paperwork.
- The SOCU continues to be busy as usual.

**Questions, Comments, Discussion:**

- In response to Comm. Roy's inquiry, Chief Mara advised that the PD does not realize any cost savings from the institution of video arraignments as no officers are subpoenaed for arraignment proceedings. Lt. Tessier stated that there could be some court cost savings to the PD when the Felonies First program goes into effect.

**Investigative Division – Capt. Flanagan:**

- The Investigative Division will be seeing some personnel changes in the near future due to promotions to be effective in January. Five out of the twelve promotions involve Investigative Division personnel. The division will be looking to fill the positions once the promotees move on to their new assignments.
- Two detectives traveled to Florida reference a lead in the whereabouts of the murder suspect Matthew Dion. The detectives garnered some good information, unfortunately Dion was not located.
- A main instigator in the 180 and OTL gang riots that occurred during the summer was sentenced to 2-5 years of incarceration. This will send a strong message to members of the gangs and hopefully act as a deterrent for future activity.
- The Juvenile Unit had investigated a couple of reported faculty against student assaults. The incidents were determined to be unfounded, but brought about the renewal of the MOU with the school district reference the process of reporting these incidents to the police.
- The Domestic Violence Unit investigated a possible human trafficking case involving a man prostituting a woman and keeping her controlled by threats of violence and providing drugs. Thankfully, the young woman was located the evening of Nov. 4 and removed from the situation.

**Questions, Comments, Discussion:**

- Comm. Clifford related an incident in which an acquaintance, upon awakening, discovered an unknown drunken subject sleeping on the couch in another room. The subject had apparently gained entry through an unsecured main-entry door to the apartment building and then subsequently through an unlocked door into the apartment. Comm. Clifford inquired as to what charges would be brought against the individual. Capt. Flanagan advised that the subject would probably be charged with a misdemeanor-level criminal trespass offense.

**Community Policing Division – Sgt. O'Keefe:**

- During the month of October the Community Policing Division interacted with approximately 4,000 people, to include students, faculty and citizens.
- Five Cops and Kids events were completed resulting in interactions in excess of 2,400 students. One elementary school visit had to be postponed until the spring due to inclement weather.
- Crime Prevention Unit officers Paul Rondeau and Nate Linstad completed numerous presentations that included a workplace violence seminar, three internet safety classes, one home safety presentation, three Eddie Eagle gun safety seminars and two bullying presentations. They also conducted three robbery seminars for convenience store owners.
- The Police Athletic League continues to serve between 75-100 youths each month. One of the Judo players, Gabby Proksa received a silver medal in a competition last month held in Montreal. The competition is part of a series of events needed to score points for her world ranking.
- A Youth Leadership Academy was conducted and graduated 15 youth participants during a ceremony at the BMA meeting on October 21. Officer John Levasseur did an outstanding job facilitating the six-week course.
- The Coffee with a Cop initiative is continuing to be successful and the past month's session took place at the Mall of NH, hosted by Gloria Jeans. We interacted with approximately 30 people, some from Easter Seals.
- The CP officers have been innovative in addressing panhandling nuisances plaguing our city. However, the NHCLU has gotten involved and we are now at a standstill with regards to Disorderly Conduct charges. Chief Mara stated that the department is just enforcing the laws that are on the books.
- The CP Division will be experiencing a personnel turnover when the promotions go into effect in January. Lt. Soucy, Sgt. O'Keefe and Officer Richard Brown have been promoted to the ranks of captain, lieutenant and sergeant, respectively.
- Lt. Soucy will be out for a couple of weeks and Sgt. O'Keefe will continue to handle the day-to-day activities, as well as the Press Information Officer role. Overall, the division is operating efficiently and effectively.

**Questions, Comments, Discussion:**

- Comm. Roy commented that the Commissioners should make every effort to promote the good works of the Police Department; the goal over the next year shall be to focus on reinforcing the positive police department aspects. The media rarely promotes the positive activities of police officers.
- Comm. Castillo commented that the recognition of the Youth Leadership Academy students at the BMA meeting was a great experience for the youths. A couple of the students who had previously feared police officers due to past experiences left the academy with greater respect for the profession and expressed their interest in becoming police officers themselves, Chief Mara stated that the graduation of the students at the BMA was a great experience yet was never commented on by the media, they centered their reports on the discord that occurred later in the meeting.

**Assistant Chief Willard:**

- A sergeant promotional test is being administered today; approximately 41 officers are taking the test.
- An entry-level police officer exam is being administered on Saturday. There are 140 applicants. The department hopes to hire 14-16 new officers. This includes replacing two officers who have verbally made known they will be submitting letters advising of their resignations to be effective in December.
- There is a push to hire some certified officers as well. Other-agency officers have shown an interest in being hired by MPD despite the residency issue.
- Due to the FairPoint Communications strike, the department has had difficulty filling the strike details along with construction, club, and events details. The details going unfilled causes safety issues, so the department has invited assistance in filling the details by personnel from Hillsborough County Sheriffs, NH State Police, as well as Bedford, Goffstown and Hooksett police departments.
- In December, DPW will begin a 6-month project of changing all city street lights to LED bulbs. Because details is a contractual issue with MPPA, union and DPW representatives met and discussed the issue of the need of officers at every site. The meeting concluded with the agreement that police officers would provide detail coverage on heavily traveled city streets, and flaggers could be utilized on secondary roads.
- Chief Mara was recently honored at a dinner hosted by the National Cultural Diversity Awareness Council who presented him a plaque with the wording, "In recognition of your outstanding leadership and for promoting diversity." This is a great reflection of Chief Mara's community ethnic-based initiatives and his continual efforts to recruit minority officer candidates to the department.

**Questions, Comments, Discussion:**

- Comm. Roy inquired if 140 applicants for the upcoming entry-level police officer test would ultimately provide a large enough pool from which to fill 14-16 officer positions. Chief Mara advised that he hoped to hire five certified candidates to fill some of those positions, and anticipated a pool of 60-70 candidates from the testing process.
- In response to an inquiry from Comm. Clifford, Chief Mara advised that the majority of the police officer test applicants are non-city residents.
- Comm. Roy advised that he had had a conversation with an officer who lives in Manchester. The officer related that he had made an arrest of some teenagers and the following day his children were harassed and bullied in school because the students knew their father was the arresting officer. The officer's children were subsequently transferred to a different school. This officer's story voices another side of the residency issue. Chief Mara stated he did not understand why the residency of only PD personnel is being questioned and not other departments who have unions with contractual residency stipulations and are in violation of their contracts.

**Chief Mara:**

- The department has been participating in conference calls with state health officials reference Ebola. Manchester Health Department director Tim Soucy will offer training.
- Chief Mara handed out copies of a magazine article to the commissioners which provided nationwide statistics on burglaries.
- Chief Mara advised that Part I crimes for the period January 1 to October 31, 2014, are down 6% compared to the same time period in 2013. Hopefully the downward trend will continue over the next year.
- Chief Mara held a meeting with Administrators of the Zachary Road Easter Seals youth facility. Representatives from the fire department and state licensing also attended to discuss the issue of a number of false fire alarms that have occurred over the past few months. Kids pull the alarms to provide a distraction for them to run away. The alarms tie up city safety resources as the fire department has to respond to the alarm and officers spend a great deal of time trying to locate the runaways. Chief Mara is hopeful the meeting will bring about a resolution to the problem.



**Questions, Comments, Discussion:**

- Comm. Castillo inquired if heroin continues to be a problem. Chief Mara acknowledged that heroin addiction is still driving crime. He further advised that with the coming of legalization of medical marijuana, there has been interest of opening two locations for selling the product in Manchester. The department is doing research on how the affects similar facilities have had in other cities.
- Comm. Roy inquired if Spice is still a problem. Chief Mara advised that Spice is still being sold in the city and the department is still working on fighting it.
- Comm. Roy inquired if any action had yet been taken by the BMA Conduct Committee regarding the actions of Alderman Levasseur at the October 21 BMA meeting. Chief Mara stated he made a request to the Mayor during the meeting and hopes that action will be taken. It was good that the other aldermen got to see the animosity Alderman Levasseur has against the police department, however his actions overshadow the good work the men and women of the PD are doing. It is unfortunate that someone with an agenda to get attention for himself uses these tactics. His actions even took away from the Youth Leadership Academy graduation that was held prior to the meeting. Comm. Roy said it was good that the students were not in attendance to witness Ald. Levasseur's behavior.

**4. RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**

- There were no retirements or resignations announced over the past month.

**5. SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES REVIEW**

- The minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of October 22, 2014, were reviewed. No special issues of note.

**5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO**

The date of the next commission meeting was set for:

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014, AT 09:00 HOURS**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 hours.

**6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING / MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission entered Executive Session at 10:00 hours. The content of the session shall remain confidential

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kim Demers, Secretary

PC110514